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Alen Najafi, 17, and Saba Najafi, 26, search for Pokémon outside Waterfront Station on Monday.
DAVID P. BALL/METRO

GOTTA CATCH 'EM ALL

Vancouverites relive a childhood obsession with popular mobile game Pokémon Go

metroNEWS

Province supports empty homes tax

HOUSING CRISIS

Move will help increase city's rental supply, minister says

Jen St. Denis
Metro | Vancouver

B.C.'s finance minister is throwing his support behind the City of Vancouver's proposal to tax vacant homes, saying allowing the measure will help to increase rental supply in the city.

Mike de Jong said his government will reconvene the legislature for a session starting July 25 to enable the vacancy tax. Government will also bring forward legislation to implement stricter regulation of realtors, a recommendation put forward by an advisory group tasked with investigating speculation in British Columbia real estate markets.

"This proposal ... is ultimately about supply, it is about trying to increase the supply of rental accommodation," said de Jong during a press conference on Monday.

Vancouver mayor Gregor Robertson first proposed the empty homes tax on June 22, saying the city was prepared to move forward on the tax with or without the province's help. A city report released in March showed that a total of 10,800 homes in Vancouver are empty, and 9,750 of those properties were condominiums.

Home prices have been soaring in Greater Vancouver, rising by 33 per cent between June 2016 and June 2015, according to the Real Estate Board of Greater Vancouver. Renters are also feeling squeezed by rising rents coupled with an extremely low vacancy rate of just 0.6 per cent in Vancouver.

The government's action on empty homes in Vancouver is not nearly enough, said David Eby, NDP MLA for Vancouver-Point Grey.

"They have the income tax data that shows the number of people in Coal Harbour or Arbutus Ridge who are declaring 20,000 incomes while they're buying $3 million homes," said Eby. "The province has all that information necessary to leverage the taxes on people who are driving unaffordability by using our housing as an investment instead of as a place to live."

Economists who study real estate in Vancouver have said that an influx of foreign capital is one factor in the meteoric rise of residential real estate values across Metro Vancouver. De Jong has been steadfast in his belief that the problem stems from a lack of housing supply in the region, and has urged municipal governments to approve more housing developments at a faster pace.

The province would be open to allowing other communities to tax vacant homes, de Jong said, but so far Vancouver is the only municipality that has formally asked for the province's support.

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Your essential daily news

David Cameron sings his last tune as Theresa May prepares to become U.K. prime minister. **World**

Vancouver astronomers help discover far-out dwarf planet

UBC

'It's really out there,' says professor, of eureka find

David P. Ball
Metro | Vancouver

Canadian astronomers have helped make a far-out find some 12 billion kilometres from our sun: a new dwarf planet with an "unusual" 700-year orbit.

Spotted by an international team that includes top researchers in Vancouver and Victoria, it is the largest object in the solar system that Canadians have ever found.

And according to the University of British Columbia's Brett Gladman, the crew behind the discovery isn't letting the fact that it is "smallish" get in the way of their excitement — the object's diameter is barely wider than B.C., making it what's known as a "dwarf planet."

"Think of it as a smallish planet," explained Gladman, who holds a Canada Research Chair in planetary astronomy. "It's not quite big enough to be a planet, but it's still an impressive object with enough gravity to pull it into a spherical shape."

"It's about twice as far from the sun as Neptune's orbit, so it's really out there."

First spotted in late February, using five-month-old images from the Canada-France-Hawaii Telescope at the top of the volcanic island of Maunakea, for now the dwarf is simply named "2015 RR245."

The Outer Solar System Origins Survey researchers found it by comparing very high-resolution photographs taken through the telescope. Computers then scanned for any dots that moved between frames — but it took human observers to sift through the results to make the final call.

However, until more detailed measurements can confirm its size and shape more precisely, technically it's still a "dwarf planet candidate."

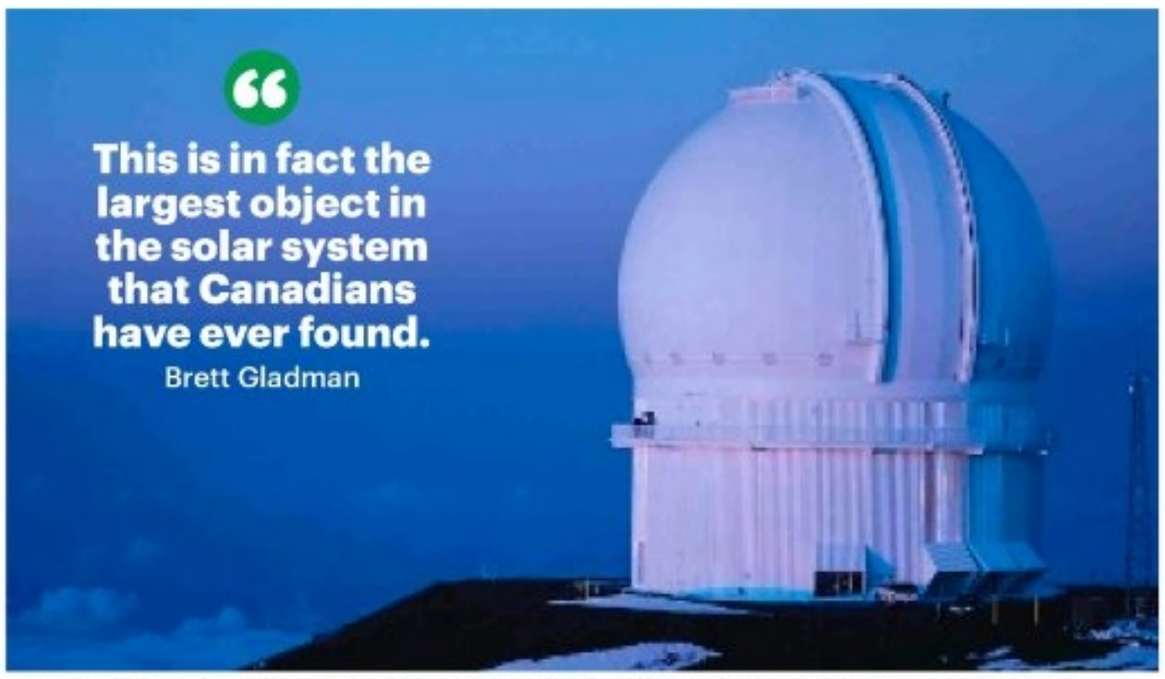
Nevertheless, "it's basically as good a case as the majority of other dwarf planet candidates," Gladman said. "Everybody was quite excited.

"We expected to find a bright thing eventually, but didn't expect it would be so far away or as large."

One surprising discovery, he said, is that it has a massive orbit that will see it come close to Neptune — despite its farthest reach being on the "outer edge" of the Kuiper Belt, a band of extremely distant objects orbiting our sun.

"Its very eccentric orbit is a little surprising," he said. "If it actually is mildly unstable, which is possible given what we know, it would be surprising that such a big thing has survived so long. We'll have to wait and see.

"That might reveal even more surprises."



The Canada-France-Hawaii Telescope at the top of the volcano island of Maunakea. FLIKR

ENERGY

LNG Canada delays final decision on Kitimat project

Instability in global energy markets has caused international partners in a proposed liquefied natural gas project in Kitimat to delay their final decision on the venture.

LNG Canada CEO Andy Calitz said in a conference call Monday that a drop in natural gas prices around the world, particularly in Asia, has made the project too expensive for now.

"The whole global energy industry is in turmoil," he said.

The LNG Canada project would export up to 24 million tonnes of liquefied natural gas per year and cost up to $40 billion US to build.

Royal Dutch Shell owns a 50 per cent stake in the project along with partners Korea Gas Corp., Mitsubishi Corp., and PetroChina Co. Ltd.

All four companies jointly decided to put off the final decision, Calitz said, and representatives from each company are currently in Canada to look at a range of options for the project.

"In the coming months, LNG Canada will continue key site preparation activities and work with its joint venture participants, partners, stakeholders and First Nations to find a revised path forward," he said.

A timeline for when a final decision will be made has not been established, but LNG Canada still sees the project on B.C.'s northwest coast as a promising opportunity.

"It is important for the community to understand that the project has been delayed and has not been cancelled," Calitz said.

However, global oil and gas prices will have to recover before the companies involved can move forward, he added.

Doubt was cast on the LNG Canada project last month when Shell announced it was shifting away from growing its LNG business after acquiring the gas giant BG Group in February.

In 2014, BG put an LNG project slated to be built near Prince Rupert on hold indefinitely.

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Kendra Milne, director of law reform for West Coast Legal Education and Action Fund (LEAF), holds a copy of a new report on childcare in her office Monday. DAVID P. BALL/METRO

Shortages a 'human rights violation'

CHILDCARE

Lack of spots, high costs impact women hardest: Report

David P. Ball
Metro | Vancouver

When Anna Geeroms was pregnant with twins five years ago, like most expecting parents she planned ahead for childcare.

But the Vancouver business analyst discovered there were no daycare spaces available nearby. So she got on a waitlist. And she waited.

Her twins reached six months, and Geeroms still had heard nothing.

"I realized that it was not likely that we would get childcare spaces in that facility by the time I was scheduled to return to work," she lamented. "After additional research, I placed my twins on waitlists with 11 more licensed childcare providers.

"I was scheduled to go back to work one year after the twins were born, and at that time we still had not heard from any of the childcare facilities we were waitlisted for."

Two years without success, she had to hire a nanny for $21,000 a year.

The now-39-year-old's testimony forms one of 15 affidavits collected from across B.C. by lawyers with West Coast Legal Education and Action Fund (LEAF) for a new report, released Tuesday.

The study — titled High Stakes: The Impacts of Child Care on the Human Rights of Women and Children — looks at the legal ramifications of significant shortages and high costs for families in the province.

The lawyers and researchers behind the study conclude that finding childcare isn't just a nuisance for parents — it actually may violate the rights of women and children.

"In our view, it violates both women and children's equality rights under the Charter, and also their right to security of person," Kendra Milne, the organization's director of law reform, told Metro in an interview in West Coast LEAF's offices.

> **Because women do the majority of caring for children in B.C., access to childcare services disproportionally impacts them — it creates an equality violation.**
> Kendra Milne

"Because women do the majority of caring for children in B.C., access to childcare services disproportionally impacts them — it creates an equality violation."

Last year, the monthly median cost of childcare for an infant was $1,225 per month — though West Coast LEAF's participants said they paid nearly $600 more than that.

For women in poverty or fleeing abusive partners, Milne said, the impact of such a monthly cost is more than just a debt sentence however.

"We found it creates really significant harms," she said, "ranging from being stuck in cycles of poverty, to creating barriers for women trying to flee abuse, to putting the parent-child relationship at risk and putting children at risk of being apprehended."

The B.C. government offers childcare subsidies for 20,000 children, spending $120 million annually according to an earlier statement.

And the Ministry of Children and Family Development has budgeted nearly $330 million on childcare services this year, including a fund to help providers keep their operating costs down.

"The province is committed to supporting sustainable child care in order that families can choose from a range of affordable, safe, quality child care options," said a ministry spokesperson last October.

Milne, whose organization launched a women's free legal clinic in Vancouver to offer pro bono family law services in May, said the data could potentially form the basis for litigation — but so far, no one's been able to test a link between childcare and human rights in court.

For Geerom, it took three years before her efforts bore fruit. In 2014, one of her waitlisted daycares called offering her twins a spot. But for many other B.C. parents in the legal study, the impacts remain steep.

Get ready, get set ... Pokémon Go!

MOBILE CRAZE

Vancouverites not waiting for game's official release here

Jen St. Denis
Metro | Vancouver

Jessie Zhu, 32, hunts for Pokémon outside Waterfront Station on Monday. DAVID P. BALL/METRO

Vancouver Pokémon fans aren't waiting for the popular Pokémon Go mobile game to be officially available in Canada to "catch 'em all."

"There have been some awkward moments, like I'll be riding the bus and then Pokémon will randomly appear," said Ryan Ventura.

"I've had Pokémon appear on people's laps, on people's heads, just random places."

The augmented reality game was released in the United States, Australia and New Zealand on July 6, but its huge popularity has delayed the rollout in Canada. Nevertheless, some Canadian iPhone users are getting the game by creating an American iTunes account, while Android users are downloading it through unofficial download sites (a risky move that could leave your phone open to viruses).

Ventura wanted to wait until the game was available in Canada, but he just couldn't resist.

"I think it's one of the most interesting experiences you'll ever have through your mobile phone," said the 28-year-old Surrey resident.

"I was in the Surrey Central SkyTrain area and I saw people of all ages, all races — they're all looking around for Pokémon."

The game involves hunting for and catching Pokémon — cute cartoon animals with hidden fighting abilities — in the real world. Players can visit Pokestops and battle their Pokémon against other players' cute critters.

> "I've had Pokémon appear on people's laps, on people's heads, just random places." Ryan Ventura

Jessie Zhu, 32, says playing the game has led her to walk down unfamiliar streets "just to hit more Pokestops." Alen Najafi, 17, and Saba Najafi, 26, say the game encourages them to be active and talk to other players: The more Pokémon Go players walk, the more they are rewarded by advancing to higher levels.

Pokémon Go players say they get to relive their childhood obsession with Pokémon, a Japanese cartoon and popular collector card game from the 1990s.

Danny Ramadan, 33, is only slightly sheepish about his love for Pokémon Go. Ramadan says he often gets wrapped up in his work at a non-profit LGBTQ centre; he also sponsors Syrian refugees who identify as LGBTQ.

"I need something to be fun in my life so I can unwind and have half an hour of my day where I'm doing something for myself," he said.

WITH FILES FROM DAVID P. BALL/METRO

HOMICIDE INVESTIGATION

Husband arrested after woman dies in fire

A mother of six has died and her husband was under arrest in a homicide investigation, after neighbours helped rescue five children from the roof of their burning home in suburban Vancouver.

Rahim Bhatia said Monday that he and his wife Fawziah rushed outside Sunday as firefighters blasted the flames on the house across the street from their home in Port Moody with high-powered hoses.

"The siding — it just went up. You just felt sick. It was like melting butter," he said.

The couple said they had often seen children playing outside and sometimes noticed a man they believed was their father, but they had never seen their mother.

The fire seemed out of control, Fawziah added, but firefighters extinguished the blaze in minutes.

"We really thought it was going to burn to the ground," she said.

Staff Sgt. Jennifer Pound of the Integrated Homicide Investigation Team said police responded to reports of a domestic dispute shortly before 1:30 p.m. Sunday, and arrived to find the two-storey home engulfed in flames.

"This incident is one that is tragic beyond words," Pound said in a statement. "Despite the intensity of the fire, the children, with assistance from the general public, managed to escape the burning home with minimal physical injuries."

The mother died of her injuries just after 6 p.m. and a man police believe to be her husband was arrested, Pound said.

Five of the couple's six children were home but were able to climb from the second floor before firefighters arrived. The six children range in age from five to 18, police said.

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HEALTH

Airport offers yoga to relax mind, body and soul

Wanyee Li
Metro | Vancouver

The yoga space is located after security at YVR's domestic terminal and is large enough to fit about 12 yoga mats. COURTESY YVR

Travellers will have no trouble remembering which city they are in when they walk past a free yoga space at Vancouver's YVR International Airport this summer.

The airport's yoga program, the first of its kind in Canada, will be available to travellers heading out on domestic flights starting this Friday, July 15, and every Friday until the end of August as part of its Take-Off Friday series.

It's an opportunity to relax the mind and body during what is usually a busy activity, said one yogi.

"It calms the mind, body and soul and it allows people to stretch their muscles before taking seat at a flight," said Carey Dillen, president at YYoga, the company hosting the program.

People can also participate if they are between connecting flights.

Even stretching exercises are helpful after a long flight, said Dillen.

"Sitting in one spot for a really long flight on an airplane … stretching allows them to work out those kinks."

The yoga program is one of many activities offered at YVR's annual summer festivities, called Take-Off Fridays which include live entertainment and lunch specials throughout the airport.

"It's a nice alternative for some of the other activities we have in the area," said Kim Halowski, manager of sales and services at YVR Airport.

The YYoga program officially starts this Friday but people have already expressed interest in it, said Dillen.

"When we were there setting up, we had so much interest from people walking by that we opened up the space for people to practice."

Looking for an easy pose to do that is beneficial for travellers? Try downward dog, said Dillen.

"The one that I have a tendency to do is downward dog because you're sitting for a long period of time so that will nicely stretch out your ham strings and your lower back and your shoulders."

TOP FLIGHT

On Fridays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., there will be a YYoga instructor and yoga mats at the site to guide people through poses and answer questions. The yoga space, big enough to fit 12 mats, is located after security at domestic terminal C-Pier, across from Gate 46.

IN BRIEF

Two new ferries set course for Gulf Islands

BC Ferries is adding two new natural gas-fuelled ferries to its southern Gulf Islands routes for next year.

The ferry corporation has released schedules for the routes from Vancouver Island and the Mainland to Galiano, Mayne, Pender, Salt Spring and Saturna islands.

It said the Salish Eagle and Salish Raven will increase peak season capacity to the five islands by 45 per cent.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Five in hospital after overdosing in Coquitlam

Five people were taken to hospital Sunday night after overdosing in a Coquitlam home, according to a spokesperson from BC Ambulance Services.

BCAS received a call about potential overdose poisonings at 10:48 p.m. at a residence on MacIntosh Street and sent six ambulances to the scene.

The patients were taken to hospital in stable condition, according to BCAS. WANYEE LI/METRO

Student's family asks for help

BANGLADESH

PM Justin Trudeau urged to intervene in the case

The family of a Toronto university student who was detained after surviving a deadly attack in Bangladesh has asked Prime Minister Justin Trudeau to intervene in the case of the young man, who is a permanent resident of Canada.

Tahmid Hasib Khan has been in custody in Dhaka since the July 1 attack, in which 20 hostages were killed, mostly foreigners.

The 22-year-old's family doesn't know why he's being held, but they insist Khan has done nothing wrong.

His brother, Talha Khan, who is a Canadian citizen, sent a letter through a lawyer to Trudeau's office on Monday, asking for Ottawa's help in the case.

"It's requesting that they reach out to the government of Bangladesh, to let the government of Bangladesh know that Canada is concerned," said lawyer Marlys Edwardh.

"And (the letter asks) to seek access to this young man so that the conditions of his detention can be monitored and it can be ensured that he is not being held in circumstances that violate international norms."

> **We want to know why he is being held, as a witness, or as a suspect.**
> Talha Khan, Tahmid's brother

Global Affairs Canada has said it is monitoring the situation in Bangladesh closely, but a spokeswoman said Monday that "there are limits" to what any country can do for individuals who are not its citizens.

However, Edwardh said that although Khan is not a Canadian citizen, Ottawa does have "a clear discretion" to request consular access to him.

"Tahmid is a young man who has very real Canadian connections," she said.

Khan, an undergraduate student studying global health at the University of Toronto, had travelled to Dhaka to visit family, with plans to go on to Nepal where he was to begin an internship this week. He was meeting friends at an upscale restaurant in Dhaka's diplomatic zone when he got caught up in the 10-hour hostage crisis.

A group of young Bangladeshi men held about 35 hostages over night, killing 20 of them, including 17 foreigners from Japan, Italy and India. Two police officers were also killed in the siege.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Tahmid Hasib Khan, a University of Toronto student who survived a hostage-taking in Bangladesh has been detained by authorities ever since the weekend attack, his family said Wednesday as they called for his immediate release. HANDOUT/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Hunger strike by Ontario detainees

A group advocating for full immigration status for all migrants says more than 50 immigration detainees began refusing food Monday in two Ontario centres.

The End Immigration Detention Network says the detainees are protesting prison conditions that include increasing lockdowns and the use of solitary confinement, and are calling for an end to indefinite detentions in maximum security prisons.

The immigration detainees are asking for a meeting with Public Safety Minister Ralph Goodale to discuss their concerns. A spokesman for Goodale says the minister is working on issues related to detention.

Those taking part in the protest are housed at the maximum security Central East Correctional Centre in Lindsay, Ont., and the Toronto East Detention Centre.

The End Immigration Detention Network says immigration detainees previously went on a hunger strike that began on April 21, and met with officials from Canada Border Services Agency.

But the group says CBSA has not followed through on promises it made and the detainees have begun the new hunger strike - this time calling for a meeting with elected officials.

"We would like to meet with MPs," said Toby Clark, who has been in immigration detention since August 2014.

"To me, the way immigration detention is right now, it's cruel and unusual punishment," Clark said Monday in a release.

Sharmeen Khan of End Immigration Detention Network said detainees are often on long lockdowns during the summer - sometimes kept in their cells for days in a row, unable to speak with their families, or get legal support. THE CANADIAN PRESS

IMMIGRATION

Going home to Afghanistan was refugee's mistake

Obaidullah Siddiqui fears being separated from his children if he's forced to leave Canada. HANDOUT/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Sometimes, going home can have terrible consequences.

Afghan native Obaidullah Siddiqui learned that the hard way when the former refugee was stripped of his right to stay in Canada because he made the mistake of going back — three times — to his war-torn homeland to visit his aging parents.

After living in exile in Pakistan for two decades, Siddiqui and his family were resettled to Canada as permanent residents by a private sponsorship group in January 2011.

But as his marriage started to crumble amid the chaos of the resettlement, the 49-year-old Surrey, B.C. man said he took three separate trips back home — two accompanied by his children — to visit his parents in Herat and to get their help in saving his marriage.

In November 2013, immigration officials initiated what is known as a "cessation application" and later stripped Siddiqui's permanent resident status on the grounds "he was found to have re-availed himself of Afghanistan's protection" and his life would no longer be in danger there.

As a result, Siddiqui became the first case where a sponsored refugee arriving as a permanent resident was stripped of his status, and faced removal under changes the Tories introduced in 2012 to immigration laws to make losing permanent residence automatic in such circumstances, with no discretion.

"This has broken me. I am going through extremely hard times mentally, emotionally and psychologically," said Siddiqui. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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Baton Rouge police facing criticism

LOUISIANA

Nearly 200 arrested, but charges still uncertain

Criticism mounted Monday over how Baton Rouge police dealt with throngs of protesters during the weekend, including nearly 200 demonstrators who were arrested and may yet face criminal charges.

The protests have been growing around the country as people express outrage over the recent deaths of two black men at the hands of police in Louisiana and in Minnesota.

East Baton Rouge District Attorney Hillar C. Moore III said Monday that his office hasn't made any decisions on charges against the protesters and that it will be done on a case-by-case basis.

"We're going to do as good job as we can, as quickly as we can, to try to go through the (police) reports as they come in," he said.

Moore suggested that "first offenders" and people who may have just "stepped over a line" could have their cases resolved more quickly than those for protesters accused of carrying guns or injuring officers.

But with tensions rising since last week's killings of Alton Sterling in Baton Rouge and Philando Castile in Minnesota by white officers, and an attack on police by a black sniper in Dallas that killed five officers, many have questioned whether the police response has been appropriate.

> They are telling us not to be violent, but they are being violent against us. Kristy Carter

Kristy Carter said she's been protesting every night since Sterling was killed. She said that officers outside the police station said they don't have a problem as long as protesters don't cross barricades or stop traffic — but that in practice it's different.

"Yesterday evening we were standing here ... and they just started coming and attacking the crowd for no reason," Carter said of police.

The American Civil Liberties Union of Louisiana said Monday that Baton Rouge police "used violent, militarized tactics on groups of people who have gathered peacefully in protest of Alton Sterling's killing."

On Sunday, Amnesty International questioned the high number of arrests during Saturday's protests.

Louisiana authorities have said repeatedly that they have no problem with protesters and pointed out the number of rallies that have been coordinated with authorities and gone off without problem.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

ICONIC IMAGE IN THE MIDST OF CHAOS Social media is exploding with reaction to a photograph of the protests in Louisiana over the death of Alton Sterling in a struggle Tuesday with two Baton Rouge police officers. The photo is of a young woman in a flowing dress near the city's police headquarters, the instant before she is arrested by police. PHOTO: JONATHAN BACHMAN/REUTERS; TEXT: TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

SHOOTING

Inmate kills two bailiffs

A prisoner was being moved at western Michigan courthouse when he disarmed an officer and shot and killed two bailiffs Monday before officers killed the gunman, a sheriff said. Berrien County Sheriff Paul Bailey said the inmate was being moved from a holding cell when a "fight occurred." He said the man was able to disarm an officer, get hold of the gun and start shooting.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

BREXIT

Britain to get new 'Iron Lady' as Cameron sings last song

Theresa May, 59, is expected to be sworn in as Britain's new prime minister later this week.

She brings with her plenty of experience, having been first elected to Parliament in 1997.

She rose to become chair of the Conservative Party in 2002 and Home Secretary in 2010. Home Secretary is a mega-post in Britain, as it encompasses immigration, anti-terrorism and policing.

Here are three things to know about the woman who is to lead the United Kingdom by the end of the week:

1 "Brexit means Brexit"

She was part of the Remain side in the Brexit debate, although she came under fire for not campaigning hard enough.

She has quickly snuffed out any speculation that she'll try to stay inside the European Union.

"Brexit means Brexit and we will make a success of it," she said.

2 Private person

May prefers not to give out details of her personal life, although she has spoken about some things, such as how she has Type 1 diabetes.

Theresa May, incoming leader of Tories. GETTY IMAGES

She and her husband, Philip May, were married by her Anglican minister father in 1980.

3 Students aren't immigrants

As Home Secretary, May made it clear she thinks too many foreign students don't go home when their visas run out.

"I don't care what the university lobbyists say," she said. "The rules must be enforced. Students, yes: overstayers, no."

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

SO BRITISH

Cameron's tune

British Prime Minister David Cameron told reporters he'd be calling it quits as prime minister by the end of Wednesday. Then he turned his back and walked back into 10 Downing Street in London. As he turned, it seems he began to whistle and sing "Do dooo doooo" to himself. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Retailers get Plan B ready

CANADA POST DISPUTE

Contingency plans include new delivery partners

Canada's largest retailers say they're preparing to handle any disruptions in Canada Post services if the corporation can't reach an agreement with its unionized employees.

Some retailers have been planning for the possible disruption for months, putting contingency plans into place that include alerting customers to the problem and queuing up new partners for package deliveries, said Michael LeBlanc, senior vice-president for the industry group the Retail Council of Canada.

A possible lockout of 50,000 postal employees was averted on Friday and Monday, and negotiations are continuing at an Ottawa hotel.

Even before the threat of a lockout, Purolator had already seen a significant increase in shipping volumes, according to spokesperson Courtney Reistetter.

Purolator is prepared to add staff and overtime hours to meet the demand, said Reistetter.

The rise of e-commerce, has made retailers more dependent on parcel delivery services, LeBlanc said.

"As much as there is so much technology involved in e-commerce, you still can't e-mail a parcel."

Additionally, a lot of business-to-business communications and exchanges are still conducted by mail, including the exchange of cheques and invoices, LeBlanc added.

"There are other options to Canada Post, but Canada Post does have a very well-developed network, particularly in rural Canada, that is hard to replicate, if not impossible. There's a bunch of moving parts to it," he said.

"The capacity can't overnight find a home, so on the whole, it's a bit of a challenge for sure."

LeBlanc said that in the event of a service interruption, smaller independent retailers may have more problems signing up new delivery services if they rely on Canada Post and those services may be more expensive. Large retailers typically use a variety of shipping services.

"Smaller retailers have single source," said LeBlanc. "When that is disrupted, it's harder to call someone up and say I'm not your customer but I'd like to do business with you now."

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Canada Post and the union representing 50,000 of its workers have resumed talks as the post office withdrew a threat to lock out its workers. RYAN REMIORZ/THE CANADIAN PRESS

POKEMON GO

Crimes linked to new game

Police are reporting crimes associated with the new "augmented reality" smartphone game Pokemon Go.

1 **Players robbed** — Police in Missouri say four teens robbed victims after luring them with a "beacon" to a specific spot in O'Fallon, just outside of St. Louis, using the smartphone game.

2 **Game leads to body in river** — Authorities in central Wyoming are investigating after a woman playing Pokemon Go found a man's body in the Wind River near Riverton on Friday.

3 **Stop trespassing, sheriff warns** — The Goochland Sheriff's Office in central Virginia links a rise in reports of trespassing and suspicious activity over the weekend to Thursday's release of the Pokemon Go game.

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EMMA TEITEL ON PASSPORTS

Unless you have a debilitating fear of heights, the prospect of getting on a plane is unlikely to keep you up at night. But if you are transgender or gender queer, it might.

Air travel is stressful.

There are passports to mind, forgotten toiletries to stuff last minute into tiny plastic bags, and planes to catch—or miss.

There are glitches in the in-flight entertainment system, crying babies, and — courtesy of the person sitting next to you — inaudible, pungent farts.

But for most of us — and by most of us I mean people whose gender identities match their sex at birth — the stress of air travel is fairly minor.

Unless you have a debilitating fear of heights, or you're a Muslim person wary of racial profiling, the prospect of going to the airport and getting on a plane is unlikely to keep you up at night.

But if you are transgender or gender queer, it might.

In fact, in some cases, it may even prevent you from travelling altogether.

The reason for this is simple. Right now, the gender designations on our nation's passports allow Canadians to identify in only one of two ways — as either "male" or "female."

There is currently no gender-neutral identification option on Canadian passports, meaning that when a transgender or gender non-conforming person goes to the airport with a single-gender passport they can and do face uncomfortable questions and sometimes discrimination from airport staff who are confused by or suspicious of the way they look.

RJ Vandrish, an artist who lives in Toronto, who is gender queer, hasn't left the country since 2011 precisely for this reason. (2011 was when Vandrish transitioned; they use gender-neutral pronouns).

"I don't feel comfortable trying to cross any borders," says Vandrish, "because I don't know how I'm going to read (to airport staff), especially on an international level where gender is perceived differently."

Passports are full of other ways to confirm identity — from height to a photograph

By requiring holders to indicate a gender, passports reveal information that might not be needed. HANDOUT

"Even domestic travel is a little terrifying because I don't know if they're going to let me on the flight or not, because Transport Canada states that I have to look like my sex."

Vandrish's anxiety about this isn't unwarranted.

"I get referred to as 'oh sir–um oh, ma'am' and the person is very confused," they say. "Or I get looks when I use the washroom. Those experiences tell me that I'm not going to have an easy time traveling with a male or female passport."

Vandrish isn't alone either; according to Marcella Daye, Acting Manager of Policy at the Canadian Human Rights Commission, the passport problem is top of mind for several transgender and gender non-conforming Canadians whom the organization consulted.

"When a person changes their gender they have to go through a challenging process of changing every single one of their IDs, which is time consuming and costly," says Daye. "While they are in the middle of it, they might be carrying ID's with different genders."

In other words, if your driver's licence says you're male and your passport says you're female, accessing services that require two pieces of government issued ID can be make for awkward and potentially discriminatory results.

Luckily there is an easy solution to this problem—one adopted by seven other nations, including Australia, Bangladesh, Germany and New Zealand; a solution approved by the International Civil Aviation Organization (to which Canada adheres).

It's the called the third gender option: citizens who select it don't have to identify as male or female—instead, their passports will be marked with an "X".

Unfortunately there is a downside that makes the option unpopular with some.

That downside is the possibility that those who choose the X option will be easily "outed" as transgender or gender queer by airport officials.

Some gender non-conforming people, says Daye, would rather take their chances with a conventional passport than run the risk of outing themselves to the world.

They prefer the conventional passport (imperfect as it is) to the one that would single them out.

But in the absence of a better solution (perhaps in the future, we can remove gender altogether from passports) the X option is the safest and the most fair that we've got. For those concerned about security, passports are full of other ways to confirm identity—from height to a photograph.

"Gender is rarely needed to deliver a service to a person," says Daye. Neither is religion — once common on identification cards and travel documents.

"We used to use race and religion to identify people and we don't anymore," says Daye. It's our hope that gender will come under the same scrutiny."

It's my hope too.

Because when transgender and gender non-conforming people go to the airport, the anxiety inducing question on their minds shouldn't be "what will they say when I flash my passport," but "where the hell did I put it?"

Emma Teitel is a national columnist for the Toronto Star.

Dallas robot shooting raises many questions

URBAN COMPASS
Petti Fong

The last we heard after the deadly shootings in Dallas was gunman Micah Johnson was cornered and had barricaded himself on the second floor of a downtown parking garage.

Negotiations went on for hours before breaking off. Police eventually decided to outfit a robot with an explosive, send it in to the gunman and detonate it.

There is more, of course, that will come out in the days ahead. We already have glimpses of motivation that sparked the Thursday night shooting, when five white officers were killed, and the frustration and fears that led to the shooter getting killed by an object controlled by police. The evening began peacefully with a protest that should have been brimming with anger from the public after two separate fatal shootings earlier in the week of black men by white police officers.

The shooting of Johnson is the first publicly acknowledged police shooting in North America via a robot.

It's a technique practiced, deployed then perfected by the U.S. military overseas in situations where the environment is unstable and unpredictable.

Policing expert Rick Parent, associate criminology professor at Simon Fraser University, says local police have used robots in the past. They've been deployed to deliver pizzas and to facilitate communication between suspects and negotiators. In Israel, police have used robot shooters to take out suspects, according to Parent.

Now that it's been used once, successfully, in an urban setting, more machine-activated snipers, are now going to be a part of the policing arsenal. It's a pretty clear example of the militarization of urban policing.

Police have used robots in dangerous situations; think of all those remote controlled units sent in to check for explosives. It's now time to consider the next stage of how mechanical devices are used to permanently disarm suspects too volatile for continued negotiations.

Police officers have often described that moment in time when they have to decide whether to shoot or not as both a blur and slow motion. Take away that continuum and there is a vast ethical consideration that merits long and careful thought. When else does it make sense to use robot shooters is now the debate rather than if is it ever the right thing to do.

Dallas police department said the "mechanical tactical robot" was used as a last resort to deliver an explosive device to save the lives of officers and citizens. The robot it used was the Remotec Model F-5 from Northrup Grumman, which bills itself as a "leading global security company providing innovative systems, products and solutions in autonomous systems."

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Your essential daily news

Solange Knowles joined protesters marching the streets of Baton Rouge this weekend

Siblings on the sidelines

Right: Sara Selthofer and daughter Menka sneak away to the playground during one of her brother Alex's games. **When youth sports get serious, non-sporty siblings often have to tag along whether they like it or not.** CONTRIBUTED

FAMILY LIFE

How parents deal when only one kid is in elite sports

Genna Buck
Metro Canada

For as long as she can remember, many of nine-year-old Menka Stojcevski's summer weekends have been the same. She either sits on the sidelines watching a baseball or golf game, or kills time at a nearby park, sometimes with other non-sporty siblings of young athletes.

"There was this one like three-hour game of baseball and I was getting really hot. After a while I get bored of watching," she says.

Menka's brother Alex, 12, plays baseball and golf in the summer and rep hockey from August to April. All year long, he has practices and games at least a couple of times per week, more during hockey season, plus weekend tournaments out of town and three-hour-plus drives from their home in Windsor, Ont. to away games.

Alex is in house-league baseball this season, but he's such a strong player that he keeps getting asked to tournaments.

Menka, on the other hand, is more academically inclined. She likes to read, and has tried out horseback riding, gymnastics, dance and hockey at a recreational level, but nothing requiring anything the type of commitment Alex's sports take.

Their mother, Sara Selthofer, like so many parents, struggles to balance Alex's sports — and the travelling, money and family time they require — with the needs of her other child.

"It's a tough thing," says Katherine Tamminen, a sport psychology professor at York University. "Sometimes siblings do feel neglected."

Elite sports may gobble up time, but they don't have to monopolize parents' attention or "dominate the entire family conversation," Tamminen said.

"Our schedule has basically been around Alex since he was seven," Selthofer says. "It's a daily battle for me. I do feel like I spend a lot more time with Alex. You get caught up in it ... because you're very proud of your athletic child. And Menka's very easygoing and content. (We) almost take advantage of that."

It's painful, because Selthofer loves watching and knows Alex wants both parents cheering him on, but lately they've been splitting up the family more: Her husband Adam takes Alex to his game or practice while Menka and her mom stay home or explore the town they're visiting.

And when she sees Menka fading during a game, they go to the mall, or out for ice cream, or head to the hotel pool.

"I can just tell she's had it," Selthofer says. "For her to sit through three ball games in one day is not fun. It's great if there are other siblings, if she has a friend she can play with. But sometimes that doesn't work out."

"I'm proud of Alex that he goes through all this hard work in hockey and baseball and all the other sports," Menka says, confessing, at the same time, that she'd usually rather do something other than watch a game.

Over the years, Menka has collected some wisdom about how to make the best of being a sports sibling: "Make sure to plan what you're going to do, and don't be shy to make new friends, because if you don't make new friends it's going to be boring."

EXPERT ADVICE

Tips for parents from Dany MacDonald, UPEI sports psychologist

Provide choices
Decisions help kids "feel invested," MacDonald says. He suggests letting siblings choose their spirit wear for the game, pick where they'll sit and make up a chant to cheer their brother or sister on.

Be realistic
Parents need to remember odds are around 1 in 10,000 that a young player will become a pro athlete — even though 30 to 40 per cent of parents believe their kid has what it takes.

Make fun priority one
Above all, parents should remember sports are ultimately about fun, especially for younger kids. Kids get the same social and fitness benefits from sampling many sports as they can from elite-level training in one.

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Javier Acevedo started swimming at the age of 10 months, began competing at seven, and won an Olympic spot at the age of 18, setting a world junior record in backstroke. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Family support is key for swimmer

OLYMPICS

Javier Acevedo relies on loved ones as he trains for Rio

Javier Acevedo remembers the exact moment he qualified for the Olympics.

"I remember touching the wall and looking at my family and pointing at them and thinking, 'This is it. I've made it,' " said the 18-year-old Scarborough swimmer, who qualified in April.

"At the end of the day, we hugged it out and all cried together."

Acevedo's familial support network, including his grandparents, parents and two younger sisters, are all joining him in Rio, where he heads at the end of this month to compete in the individual 100-metre backstroke and the 4x100-metre medley relay.

It's family he credits — along with his coaches, teammates and swim club — for getting him there in the first place. They're the ones who put him in water at 10 months old and got him swimming competitively at age 7.

His mom, Catherine Walker-Acevedo, was a swim instructor in her youth, but his dad, Aroldo Acevedo — born in Nicaragua and raised in Toronto — doesn't "really" know how to swim, said Acevedo.

"He thinks he can swim, but we all laugh when he touches water," Acevedo said by phone from his family home in Scarborough, laughing.

But the elder Acevedo is one of his biggest champions.

"He's not putting pressure on me but he's always saying, 'You can do this.' I hear that every day going to practice," he said. "I always feel a little better about myself, a little higher."

As Rio approaches, Acevedo said he feels excited and like he has nothing to lose. It's that attitude — and the mystery of being a relative unknown on the elite-level swim scene — that he thinks helped him secure an Olympic spot in April. "I knew everything about them and they didn't know much about me," he said of the older, better-known competitors around him.

He qualified for the Olympics that day and set a world junior record in the 100-metre backstroke. Now, just two weeks after graduating from Neil McNeil High School, he's set his sights on at least two more Olympic runs and studying kinesiology at the University of Georgia, where he's been accepted on a full athletics scholarship.

But first, his Olympic debut.

"I'll be representing more than just my school, my family, my swim club," he said. "I'll be representing the millions of people in Canada, too." TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

STAYING FIT

Javier's wellness insights

- **Breakfast:** Hard-boiled eggs, bagel with cream cheese, bacon, chocolate milk.
- **De-stressing:** Hanging out with friends on weekend.
- **Coming to terms with defeat:** I know it's a learning experience. With every defeat I learn something new that I need to work on.

Goodbye bachelor party benders

EVENT PLANNING

Skydiving and bike tours are replacing strip clubs, casinos

For Jarrett Ehler, the perfect bachelor party was not a night of drunken debauchery. There were no strip clubs, casinos or limousines.

Instead, he and 11 close friends played golf, ate steaks, sipped beers and talked around a campfire during a getaway at Sherwood Golf and Country Club in Chester, N.S., in early June.

"I wanted it to be about having my friends together and having a good time with them," said the 27-year-old Ehler, who is from Prince Edward Island but lives in Toronto.

"I didn't want it to be a typical city event where everyone is going in different directions and you get so absolutely hammered that you don't even have any meaningful conversations."

Industry experts say Ehler's experience is becoming the new normal. Bachelor parties in Canada are moving away from the traditional night of vice, with many grooms opting instead for experience-based celebrations that run the gamut from beer tasting to bike tours.

Dan Brennan, CEO of the Ottawa-based Breakaway Experiences Inc., said he often caters to the thrill-seeking groom. He said bachelors nowadays are looking for a full-day or weekend-long experience, with some opting to tick boxes off their bucket lists.

"It's often not just about partying in bars and drinking anymore. It's turning into a full experience," said Brennan, adding that his company offers a range of bachelor party experiences including skydiving and stunt car driving.

"More and more, bachelor parties are becoming an event. They want to do something that they're going to remember — something unique and fun."

> It's often not just about partying in bars and drinking anymore. It's turning into a full experience.
> Dan Brennan, Breakaway Experiences Inc CEO

Oren Bornstein, owner of the bachelor party planning company Connected Montreal, said many contemporary couples are getting married at an older age than their parents did.

Friends of Howard An , right, who is getting married in October, exercise before some Axe Throwing action as part of An's bachelor party. EDUARDO LIMA/THE CANADIAN PRESS

He said those grooms are more likely to crave a weekend away from the daily grind rather than a one-night bender.

"People are getting married later on in life and there's less and less chances for guys and their buddies to go on vacation with just each other," said Bornstein. "So ironically, it's becoming less about the bachelor and more just about everyone getting together."

But Bornstein conceded he still plans plenty of parties riddled with immoral self-indulgence: "I think at the end of the day, boys will be boys," he said with a laugh.

Newlywed Matt McGrath wasn't interested in having naked women at his camping stag in coastal Blandford, N.S.

"At the end of the day, I don't live my life like a rap video," said the 31-year-old man with a deep chuckle, adding that his friends planned his party. "(Strippers) don't have any sort of appeal to me. I don't see the entertainment in it and I don't think it's tasteful."

McGrath said he thinks grooms in the 21st century are also becoming more frugal.

"Throwing away your money on visuals — maybe that's not the best way to spend your money or your friend's money when you can grab a couple of beers... and share some stories with the intent of celebrating the life you've created and carved out for yourself," he said.

Ehler agreed, saying he wanted to celebrate his upcoming marriage with his closest friends.

"It's not about a 'last call,"' said Ehler, who is getting married in Digby, N.S., on July 31. "It really is just an opportunity to get everyone together and celebrating the phase of life that you're at." THE CANADIAN PRESS

HEALTH TREND

It's time we embraced the nap

It's overwhelming when it hits, the animalistic urge to take a nap.

It usually happens in the afternoon, when cortisol, the hormone that helps us feel awake, continues to dip to low levels after peaking in the morning and after lunch. But most of the time we don't give in to the urge to nap. That's because to nap is to reveal a weakness, says sleep researcher Sara Mednick with the University of California Riverside. "There's such a feeling of shame and guilt around needing to sleep. It's just not accepted in our culture." But the midday nap, many experts say, can help re-energize us, increase productivity and even stave off heart disease.

Nappers rejoice. Research has found plenty of health benefits associated with siesta. ISTOCK

Mednick's nap lab is known for having tested well-rested people over the course of a day without napping. She examined their energy level and performance on various memory and creativity tasks. Without napping, they deteriorated throughout the day. She bribed them with money, had them rest with their eyes closed to see if their performance improved, but nothing worked. It wasn't until they napped for 60 minutes in the afternoon that not only their energy surged, but their ability to perform simple creative tasks like word associations increased.

"Compared to people who've been awake all day, people who nap have fewer attention lapses," Mednick says.

A short 20-minute nap, often referred to as a "power nap," is like pressing the reset button for energy, but it won't have the same impact of a longer nap of 60 to 90 minutes, Mednick says.

In longer naps, a person goes through deeper phases of sleep, called slow wave and rapid eye movement (REM), where the greatest effects will be seen.

Recent studies have shown that napping may be connected to even more dramatic benefits. It has been linked to decreased levels of hypertension, or high blood pressure, according to 2015 research in the Journal of Human Hypertension. In 2007, researchers with the Harvard School of Public Health in Boston found a relationship between midday naps and a decreased prevalence of heart disease.

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Tens of thousands of people greeted Portugal on arrival in Lisbon on Monday to celebrate Sunday's Euro 2016 victory

Duncan calls it a career

NBA

Spurs icon announces retirement at age of 40

Tim Duncan spent nearly two decades as the quiet storm in the middle of the San Antonio Spurs franchise, putting the team on his broad shoulders and carrying it to heights unseen in modern American sports.

With Duncan as the focal point, the Spurs won five championships, made the playoffs in all 19 of his seasons and cemented themselves as one of the most successful sports franchises in history. And now, the tireless and reluctant superstar is finally calling it a career.

The 40-year-old Duncan announced his retirement on Monday, marking the end of an era for the Spurs and the NBA.

"The greatest power forward ever," the Los Angeles Clippers' Jamal Crawford said Monday, as the tributes to Duncan's career began coming.

Few would dare argue.

Duncan was the No. 1 overall pick in 1997 and teamed with coach Gregg Popovich, point guard Tony Parker and shooting guard Manu Ginobili to turn the Spurs from a solid franchise that could never quite get over the hump into one of the league's superpowers.

"The constant staple of their franchise," Cleveland's LeBron James said earlier this year.

Tim Duncan spent all of his 19 NBA seasons with the San Antonio Spurs. GETTY IMAGES FILE

Even tho I knew it was coming, I'm still moved by the news. What a HUGE honor to have played with him for 14 seasons! #ThankYouTD Manu Ginobili

The unassuming Duncan won two MVP awards and was one of just four players to be named NBA Finals MVP at least three times. Nicknamed "The Big Fundamental" for his clinical approach that favoured bank shots over dunks, he was a 15-time all-star, a member of the All-NBA first team 10 times and is one of only three players — joining Kareem Abdul-Jabbar and Robert Parish — to win at least 1,000 games in his career. He is fifth on the NBA's career list in blocks, sixth in rebounds and 14th in scoring.

NBA commissioner Adam Silver called Duncan "one of the most dominant players in NBA history" and lauded him for an "understated selflessness (that) made him the ultimate teammate."

"For two decades Tim represented the Spurs, the city of San Antonio and the league with passion and class," Silver said. "All of us in the NBA family thank him for his profound impact on the game."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

BY THE NUMBERS

3
NBA Finals MVP awards, 1999, 2003 and 2005.

5
NBA championships won, in 1999, 2003, 2005, 2007 and 2014.

50
Minimum number of games the Spurs have won in each of the last 17 seasons, an NBA record.

1,001
Regular-season wins in which he appeared, third-most in NBA history.

3,020
His blocked-shot total, fifth-most in NBA history.

9,370
Career playoff minutes played, most in NBA history.

MLB

Stanton flexes muscles in derby

Giancarlo Stanton of the Miami Marlins won the All-Star Home Run Derby with an impressive display of power that bested defending champion Todd Frazier of the Chicago White Sox.

Stanton hit a record 61 homers in three rounds Monday night in San Diego, including two shots that were both estimated at 497 feet. The three-time all-star is not on the NL roster for Tuesday night's game after batting .233 with 20 homers and 50 RBIs before the break.

Stanton hit 20 home runs in the final round, including two off the third level of the Western Metal Supply Co. Building brick warehouse in the left-field corner. Two more landed just under the scoreboard in left.

Frazier hit 13 in the final round.

Stanton can defend his title at home next year when the Marlins host the All-Star Game.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Giancarlo Stanton GETTY IMAGES

MLS

Caps shore up D with two signings

The Vancouver Whitecaps, looking to bolster a sagging defence, have signed Canadian internationals David Edgar and Marcel de Jong.

Both signed 18-month contracts with the MLS team.

Edgar, a 29-year-old defender-mdfielder from Kitchener, Ont., who left for England in 2001 at 14 to join Newcastle's youth system, played last season in England's third tier with Sheffield United on loan from Birmingham City.

The Whitecaps have given up 33 goals this season and are tied with New England in conceding a league-worst 1.74 goals a game.

De Jong, a 29-year-old defender from Newmarket, Ont., was with Ottawa Fury FC of the North American Soccer League most recently. THE CANADIAN PRESS

IN BRIEF

Warriors' Green arrested for assault and battery

Golden State Warriors star Draymond Green was arrested on a charge of misdemeanour assault and battery over the weekend near the Michigan State campus, police said Monday.

The alleged incident occurred around 2:30 a.m. Sunday, and involved another an adult male who was not injured and did not flag down an officer afterward.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Ruling on Sharapova's doping ban postponed

A ruling on Maria Sharapova's appeal of her two-year doping ban has been postponed until September, ruling her definitively out of the Olympics in Rio de Janeiro.

The Court of Arbitration for Sport said on Monday that Sharapova and the International Tennis Federation agreed to defer the decision, which had been due to be issued by next Monday.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

MMA

UFC sold for $4B

In less than 16 years, the UFC has grown from a money-losing company in a widely reviled sport into a global entertainment property worth $4 billion.

While the UFC and its new owners figure out the company's next steps, Lorenzo and Frank Fertitta are tapping out of mixed martial arts with a remarkable return on a $2-million investment.

$2.5M
Brock Lesnar's basic purse for his fight at UFC 200 on Saturday night, a record for the fight promotion.

The UFC has been sold for approximately $4 billion to a group led by Hollywood entertainment conglomerate WME-IMG, both companies confirmed Monday.

UFC president Dana White will remain the boss and public face of the UFC while keeping an ownership stake.

the deal appears to be the largest single financial transaction in the history of sports.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

RECIPE Salmon with Peach Cucumber Salsa

PHOTO: MAYA VISNYEI

Ceri Marsh & Laura Keogh
For Metro Canada

You can top this sweet and family-friendly salsa on a variety of fish but we're fans of tender salmon.

Ready in
Prep time: 10 minutes
Cook time: 20 minutes

Ingredients
- 4 or 5 filets of salmon with skin
- 2 cups of peeled, pitted and diced peaches (I used 3 peaches)
- 1 cup unpeeled, diced cucumber
- 3/4 cup diced red pepper
- 1/4 cup washed, finely chopped cilantro
- 4 Tbsp lime juice
- 1 tsp of chipotle chiles (adjust depending on how much heat you like) minced

Directions

1. Mix all the ingredients for the salsa except the chiles. Separate the amount you think you'll give little kids or those with zero tolerance for heat. Then add your chiles and stir it all together. Taste and check seasoning. Cover and place in the fridge.

2. Wash and pat dry the salmon. Season the fish with salt and pepper and a slick of olive oil on both sides. Place the fish on the grill, skin side down. Leave for 4 to 5 minutes, depending on the size of your filets. Use a thin spatula to flip the fish over. Allow to cook for another 4 to 5 minutes on the flesh side. Serve with a heaping spoon of salsa

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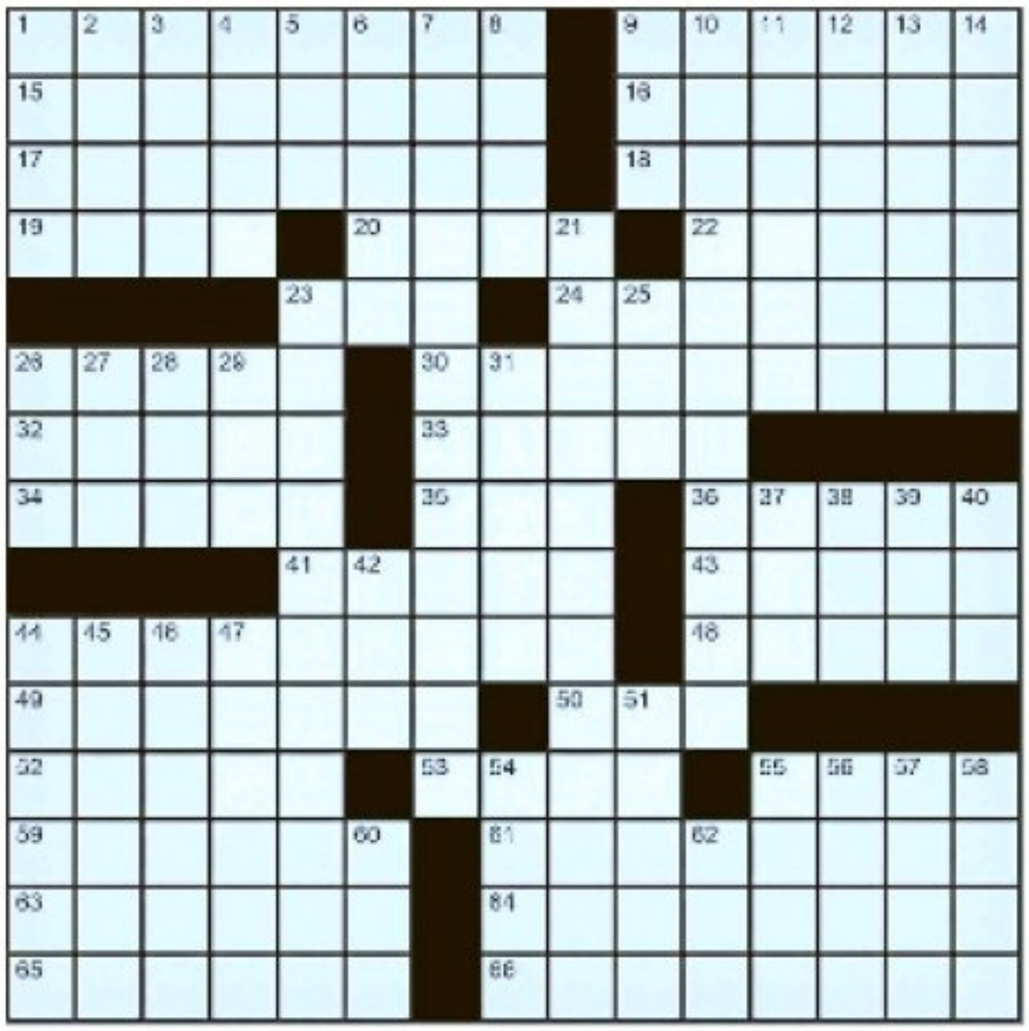
CROSSWORD Canada Across and Down

BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN



ACROSS
1. Newfoundland... Village on the Great Northern Peninsula: 2 wds.
9. Three-sided ancient harp
15. Goals reacher
16. Q. "Who is Bruce Willis' daughter who won on 'Dancing with the Stars'?" A. "_ _ believe."
17. Canadian supermodel Monika
18. Take _ _ (Rest)
19. Leaky balloon sounds
20. 'Arthr' suffix
22. "Say _ _ the Dress"
23. "...or _ _ thought."
24. Greek Myth: Hunter turned into a hunted-by-hounds stag
26. Mount _ Hospital, in Toronto
30. Flyers
32. Breezing through
33. Stick out like _ _ thumb
34. Welsh poet Mr. Thomas
35. Calif. NBA team
36. Trash-can-lids-as-instruments theatrical show
41. Actor Alan's
43. Intrepid individual
44. Welder's tool
48. Mosey along
49. Cite: 2 wds.
50. Climbing plant
52. Between: French
53. Supplication
55. Biblical twin
59. Saskatchewan hamlet, it looks like our great nation in a way
61. Hamlet castle setting
63. Cylindrically-shaped
64. Self
65. Town Crier's call!: 2 wds.
66. Once/when: 3 wds.

DOWN
1. Paul McCartney's instrument
2. Abbr. list-enders
3. CFL players, e.g.
4. Also-_ (Runners-up)
5. The Company org.
6. "Blame It _ _" (1984)
7. Nunavut... Mount Thor is so steep that it's known for being the Earth's greatest what?: 2 wds.
8. "Able was I _ _ saw Elba."
9. -La-La lead-in
10. 1967 Rolling Stones hit: 2 wds.
11. Jennifer Lopez hit: 2 wds.
12. "...six _ _-laying..."
13. Speechmaker
14. Certain cameras
21. Canadian author (who grew up in the Chicago suburb of Oak Park) of The Stone Diaries: 2 wds.
23. Be an endorser of 'Ghent' to end the War of 1812: 3 wds.
25. "Proud Mary" gr.
26. Clown face expression
27. Frigid
28. Zippo
29. Santa _, California
31. "The Love Boat" bartender
37. Glasgow topper
38. Eyeball
39. Alice's diner boss
40. Grand-_, Nova Scotia
42. Piece of land
44. Inhalation
45. Temporary money getter
46. Hill _ _ (Ireland's ancient High Kings realm)
47. Mr. Klemperer, Colonel Klink's portrayer on "Hogan's Heroes"
51. Pottery creations
54. Carrie Fisher's royal role
55. 'Within'-meaning prefix
56. "_ _ conclusion..." (Speech-ending phrase)
57. Greek city once called Ambracia
58. Slangy one-eighty turns
60. Bee's follower
62. Ancient veil-giver

IT'S ALL IN THE STARS Your daily horoscope by Francis Drake

Aries March 21 - April 20
The next three weeks will be full of opportunities for parties, picnics, sports events and playful times with children. You feel flirtatious and in the mood for fun!

Taurus April 21 - May 21
Expect to focus on home and family in the next three weeks. Many of you will attend to home repairs and tackle fun decorating projects. (Sometimes not so fun.)

Gemini May 22 - June 21
In the next three weeks, your daily schedule will be busy! Short trips, errands and discussions with everyone will be upbeat and friendly.

Cancer June 22 - July 23
Trust your moneymaking ideas in the next three weeks, because you can boost your income. It's a good time to shop for treasures for yourself and loved ones.

Leo July 24 - Aug. 23
Both Venus and Mercury will move into your sign now, to stay for several weeks. This makes you social, charming and diplomatic. (Yes, everyone loves you.)

Virgo Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
Research and working behind the scenes will go well for you in the next few weeks. If there's something you need to learn or discover, start digging!

Libra Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
The next few weeks will be a social, fun-loving time for you. Enjoy classes, clubs, groups and associations. Expect to hang out with younger, creative people.

Scorpio Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
Discussions with bosses, parents and VIPs will go well in the next few weeks. Expect someone to ask for your creative input about design, layout, landscaping or webpages.

Sagittarius Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
Travel for pleasure appeals to you now. In the next few weeks, you will have chances to travel, which means you must keep your eyes open and be ready to jump at the first opportunity.

Capricorn Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
Gifts, goodies and favors from others will come your way in the next three weeks. This is an excellent time to tie up loose ends with inheritances and shared property.

Aquarius Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
Relations with partners and close friends will improve in the next three weeks, because both Venus and Mercury will be opposite your sign.

Pisces
Feb. 20 - March 20
You will enjoy your job much more in the next three weeks because co-workers will be supportive and friendly. You also might get a raise or, at least, praise.

CONCEPTIS SUDOKU by Dave Green

Every row, column and box contains 1-9

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6	5	8				2	4	9
	4		5		7		3	
		3				8		
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3	1	6	9	4	2	7	5	8
5	7	4	6	3	8	1	2	9
9	8	2	5	7	1	3	4	6
1	5	3	2	8	9	4	6	7
6	9	8	7	1	4	5	3	2
2	4	7	3	5	6	9	8	1
8	6	1	4	9	3	2	7	5
4	2	5	1	6	7	8	9	3
7	3	9	8	2	5	6	1	4

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